THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29. 1792.

ON THE POLITICAL PROGRESS OF BRITAIN.

Continued from p. 271.

——————————Felicior esſem
Angustis opibus: mallem tolerare Sabinos,
Et Vejos: brevior duxi securius ævum,
Ipsa nocet moles. CLAUDIAN.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

I BEG leave to continue my miscellaneous remarks on the political progreſs of Britain.

It is now eighty-seven years since * we surprised Gibraltar. We have retained this barren, useleſs rock, under the idea of protecting our trade in the Mediterranean; but that trade was at least as flouriſhing in the last century as it is now; and this unquestionable fact proves the futility of such reasoning. Besides, the memorable progreſs of admiral Blake, on the coast of Barbary, evinces, that while we poſseſs a superior navy, manned as it is by a race of veterans, beyond all praise, we can always command a free navigation in every harbour of the globe. The

* In 1704.

fortreſs, for a long period past, has cost us five hundred thousand pounds a-year, besides the extraordinary advances in time of war, and the sums which the garrison, by sober industry, might have earned at home in time of peace. For the sake of moderation, let us compute that Gibraltar, during the whole space of our poſseſsion, has required upon an average only two hundred thousand pounds *per annum*; on multiplying this sum by eighty-seven, we are presented with an amount of seventeen million and four hundred thousand pounds sterling. Could the premises be disputed, the total expence would exceed credibility; for at the rate of five *per cent.* of compound interest, a sum doubles itself in fourteen years; and, consequently, in the course of eighty-four years, two hundred thousand pounds will increase to twelve millions and eight hundred thousand. This, however, concerns only *one* year of our conquest. The reader may prosecute, and contemplate the sequel of the calculation. All the current caſh in Europe would come far ſhort of discharging such a reckoning. Britain may be supposed at this time to contain about fifteen hundred thousand families, besides those who are supported upon charity. Now, dividing five hundred thousand pounds equally among them, it amounts to a ſhare of six ſhillings and eightpence *per* family. The money ought to be raised under a distinct title, such as the Gibraltar *additional ſhilling of land tax*, the Gibraltar *malt tax*, the Gibraltar *excise on tobacco*, the Gibraltar *game licence*, the Gibraltar *horse licence*, the Gibraltar *attorney licence*, or the Gibraltar *stamp duty on legacies*. In that case the nation would instantly consider what they were

about, and cast off such a preposterous burden. The payment of 6s. 8 d. is frequently the smallest part of the grievance. By the expence of excisemen, of prosecutions, and of penalties, 5 s. of revenue often cost a British *freeman* at least as many pounds sterling *.

Before the acquisition of Gibraltar, England, in the whole course of her history, had only three wars with Spain. The first in 1588, was produced by the piracies of Drake and others, and by the assistance which Elizabeth afforded to the Dutch revolters. The second war was likewise unprovoked, on the part of Spain. Cromwell found it necessary to vent the turbulence of his subjects in a foreign quarrel, and Jamaica was invaded and seized without even a pretence of justice. On this conquest chiefly has England founded that hopeful branch of her commerce, the slave trade, while the climate has annually extirpated, by thousands, the vagrants from Europe. The third Spanish war had an origin worthy

* I shall mention an example which occurs while I am now writing. An old woman had been in the practice of supplying her neighbours with halfpennyworths of snuff. She was ordered, under a penalty of *fifty pounds*, to take out a licence, and she did so. Had she been able to buy from the manufacturer four pounds of snuff at a time, the business might have rested there; but as this was beyond her power, it was required by the terriers of taxation, that she should make oath, once a-year, to the quantity she sold. Her memory failed, and she is now, with a crowd of other victims, in an excise court, which will very possibly bring her to beggary. This is like a drop in the ocean of excise. The very sound of the word announces utter destruction; for it is derived from a latin verb, which signifies *to cut up by the roots*.

What "our excellent constitution" may be in theory, I neither know nor care. In practice, it is altogether A CONSPIRACY OF THE RICH AGAINST THE POOR.

of its predecessors. The king of Spain, by his will, transferred his dominions to a prince of the house of Bourbon. His subjects consented or submitted to the choice, and England, with a degree of insolence unmatched in history, interfered in favour of an Austrian candidate. The contest ended with her acquisition of Minorca, and Gibraltar; an injury to Spain of the most offensive nature. Since that period the nation has always been forward to contend with us; and five wars *, begun and terminated in the short space of sixty-five years, assure us of their indelible indignation. Nor can we be surprised at their animosity; for what would an Englishman say or feel, were Plymouth and Dover fortified by a French garrison. Happily for the species, our countrymen at Gibraltar have been but seldom attacked. Hence, in a time of war, they have commonly inflicted and suffered far less mischief than must have been committed on both sides in a piratical expedition to the coast of Peru, in desolating the plains of Hindostan, in burning the shipping at St Maloes, or in storming the pestilential ramparts of the Havannah †.

In 1708, we captured Minorca, and it is unnecessary to expatiate on the monstrous expences which it must have cost us during half a century, till it was in 1756 surrendered to the French. On this event the whole English nation seemed to have run out of their senses. Yet to the loss of this fortress, we

* *Viz.* in 1718, in 1727, in 1739, in 1762 and in 1779.

† The major of a British regiment who served at that siege, had in his company, on his arrival at Cuba, an hundred and nine healthy men. Of these, as he himself told me, *five* only returned to Europe.

may in some measure attribute our *success*, as it was called, in that war; for the charge of supporting Minorca must have been felt as a dead weight upon our other operations. It was restored in 1763, and in 1781, it was a second time, and I hope for ever, separated from the British dominions. By the loss of this fortress we save an incessant and extravagant expence. With me it is an object of regret, that the brave Elliot and his garrison had not been forced to capitulate by the first bomb discharged against them. The individuals, acting as they did, from the most generous and honourable principles, have acquired and deserved our warmest gratitude; and, as it may be expected that such events will hereafter become less frequent, their glory will descend with increasing lustre to the last generations of mankind. But their efforts were fatal to this country; for it is self-evident that we had much better have wanted this mock appendage of empire. The siege itself produced scenes of such stupenduous destruction that they cannot be perused without horror. Nine years of peace have since elapsed, and, in that time, including the vast expence of additional fortifications, it is probable that Gibraltar has cost us at least five millions sterling; besides we have been again on the verge of a war with Spain, which has added a comfortable *item* to the debts of the nation. If the annual expence of Gibraltar, amounts to five hundred thousand pounds, this is about one thirty-second part of our public revenue. Nothing but the power of its disposal can obtain for a British minister a majority in the house of com-

mons. Three hundred and twenty members are about the usual number *under his influence* *; and therefore the patronage of Gibraltar may be conjectured to purchase ten votes in the market of St Stephen's chapel.

Though writers have presumed to specify the annual charge of Gibraltar, an exact estimate cannot poſsibly be obtained. The public accounts are presented to parliament in a state of inextricable confusion. Indeed their immense bulk would alone be sufficient to place them far beyond the reach of any human comprehension. A single circumstance may serve to ſhow the way in which parliamentary busineſs is commonly performed. A statute was paſsed and printed some years ago, containing three succeſsive references to the *thirty*-FIRST day of November.

For a foreign contest, our government is most wretchedly adapted. In the war of 1756 Frederick, that Shakespeare of kings, fought and conquered five different nations. In the course of his miraculous campaigns, he neither added a single impost, nor attempted to borrow a single ſhilling. At the same time our boasted earl of Chatham was overwhelming this country with taxes, and contracting an annual debt of fifteen or twenty millions sterling. With a more destructive minister, no nation was ever cursed. Yet this man we prefer to Sir Robert Walpole,

* When the whole strength of each party is called forth, a minority are commonly within an hundred voices of a minister, which corresponds with tolerable accuracy to the computation in the text. In the regency question, Mr Pitt with the whole nation at his back, mustered only two hundered and sixty nine members.

a statesman, whose maxim it was to keep us, if possible, at peace with all the world.

In 1662, Dunkirk, then possessed by England, cost an annual expence of a hundred and twenty thousand pounds. At the same period the whole revenues of the nation did not amount to eleven hundred thousand pounds. The retention of the town must have proved a hot bed of future wars with France. Charles II. at this time sold it to Lewis XIV. for the sum of four hundred thousand pounds. This was, I believe, the only wise, laudable, or even innocent action of his reign. It had almost produced a rebellion; and, as Mr Hume observes, "has not had the "good fortune, to be justified by any party."

Domestic improvement is, in all cases, more advantageous than military acquisition. Yet in the great outlines of their history, the English nation have incessantly forsaken the former, to pursue the latter. James I. though in private, and even in public life, universally despised, was one of the best sovereigns that ever sat on the British throne. Without a single quality which could recommend him to our esteem, he preserved the English nation, though much against their will, in peace, during his entire reign of twenty-two years. Hence both islands made rapid advances in wealth and prosperity. "Never," says Stowe, "was there any people, less considerate and less thankful than at this time, *being* "*not willing to endure the memory of their present happiness.*" On the same principles of rapine, which dictated the retention of Dunkirk, James has been severely blamed for delivering back to the Dutch three of their fortified towns, which had been put into

the posseſsion of Elizabeth. Mr Hume has, with much propriety, vindicated his conduct. Had it been poſsible that the life of such a prince, and the tranquillity of this country, could have been prolonged to the present day, it is beyond the power of Britiſh vanity to conceive the accumulated progreſs of Britiſh opulence. Both islands would, long before this time, have advanced to a state of cultivation, not inferior to that of China. The productions of the soil, and the number of inhabitants, might have exceeded, by tenfold, their present amount. Public roads, canals, bridges, and buildings of every description, must have multiplied far beyond what our most sanguine wiſhes are capable of conceiving. A ſhort review of the destruction committed by foreign wars within the last hundred years of our history, can hardly fail to amuse and may perhaps instruct the reader. This will furniſh materials for another letter from

Laurencekirk Feb. 25. 1792. TIMOTHY THUNDERPROOF.

NOVUM ORGANUM POLITICUM.

BEING AN ATTEMPT TO SHEW

THAT THE ÆRA OF SCIENTIFIC GOVERNMENT IS ARRIVED.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

THE study of human nature, and the knowledge of what has happened to mankind in the various ages, climates, and nations of the world, leading to the improvement of his nature by good government, are the elements of the first of arts, snd the first of sciences.

All political institutions, till lately, have arisen from chance, necefsity, or imitation; and none have been formed, few even improved, on the radical principles of man's nature; because all legislators have either made laws on the spur of the occasion, or laid plans for the government of men, such as they ought to be, but such as they are not, and cannot be rendered, but in the lapse of ages.

It is, therefore, the proper object of him who searches into antiquity, to contemplate the history of the world as a politician, to discover the propensities of social man, his natural habits, and consequent customs, which are too strong for laws alone to obviate, or to reform; and those errors in legislation, which have succefsively brought every nation to its fall, by gradations so uniformly marked in the page of history, that they invite the friends of humanity to attempt, by unfolding the causes, to point out the cure of political disease.

To perform this tafk would fill a volume; and I mean only to lay before your readers a few observations, tending to fhew, that a new æra of liberty and legislation has appeared, which promises to render mankind, in general, wiser and better, and consequently happier than they have been in past ages.

The general and individual wealth of nations, created by the improvement of agriculture, trade, and manufactures, and the almost universal difsemination of knowledge among the lower ranks of mankind, by education and the art of printing; the continual intercourse created by navigation and posts, and the multiplied organization of men into societies, for com-

mon interest, or common information, have, in the course of two centuries, totally changed the structure of society at large.

The strongest holds of regal authority and superstition have been happily pulled down. Men have become acquainted with their own rights, and have been enabled to afsociate, for their defence, or for acquiring that to which they are entitled.

England excluded, in the last century, the king, and discarded him and his family, as a well ordered family would exclude and discard the principal servant, who acted without its authority, and against its interest. But England was not sufficiently enlightened then to amend her faulty constitution; because a veneration for the old eftablifhed forms pofsefsed the minds of the people. In the present age we have seen north America form herself into an independent nation, on the luminous principles of philosophy, after having thrown off the yoke of tyranny, without the intervention of religious zeal, or of superstition; and still more recently we have seen the great nation of France, difsolving altogether, and in one moment, a fabric of preposterous government, that had been erecting for three centuries, and replacing it, by a grand and beautiful structure, erected on the basis of general and equal liberty, which I trust will withstand the fhock of ages, unhurt by the subtilty of princes, or the imprudence of the people.

We have seen the unity of the legislative power eftablifhed, by rejecting the project of a third estate, forming a body of janizaries, for the king and the

church, as in other countries; an institution by no means coeval with the free governments of Europe, but formed in England by Henry III. and in Scotland attempted by James I. unsuccefsfully.

We have seen the unjust and impolitic right of primogeniture, destroyed.

The distinctions of men preserved, but hereditary right to distinction and prerogative, abolifhed.

The power of the crown, to ruin the people by foolifh wars, to flatter its ambition, or to defend the sullied reputation of an infamous relation, abrogated, and invested in the legislative body.

The right of trial by jury, judges both of the law and the fact, fully establifhed.

Universal toleration of religious opinion.

All christians admitted to a fhare of the political liberty of the nation, by the capacity of being elected legislators, or appointed to offices in the state.

Corruption among the people for the election of representatives, obviated, by the diffusion of the right of suffrage.

Power of the first magistrate defined, and determined.

No power of remifsion of crimes against the state, but by recommendation of mercy from the juries and judges.

A scale of punifhments, suited to crimes.

The expence and delay of the law, and of justice, regulated and limited.

The revenue of the state, not to be raised in a way injurious to the morals of the people, or to their health and comfort.

Oaths on frivolous occasions, to be abolished.

Agriculture, as the foundation of national prosperity, to be encouraged, and rendered honourable.

No man to suffer infamy, or loss by the infamy or crimes of his ancestors, or relations.

These, Sir, and other institutions, connected with the principles upon which they were enacted, do sufficiently evince, that the æra of *scientific government* has arrived. Governments have been formed in America, and in France, upon the everlasting foundations of justice and truth; not as formerly, by collision of interests, and a jumble of fortuitous incidents, and by political and religious rage.

The power and wealth of the priesthood have been reduced to a standard, consistent with the good of the state.

The torture has been abolished, and slavery, notwithstanding the vile example of Britain, will be abolished in France as it has been in America.

The liberty of the press secured.

Wars of conquest and plunder prevented.

A system, formed in Europe, for a perpetual congress of deputies from the various states, to determine disputes, and thereby prevent expensive, bloody, and useless wars, on account of commercial or territorial differences.

An uniformity of general commercial laws.

And an uniformity of weights and measures all over the world.

No shelter to be given to criminals in any foreign state.

Thus, Sir, have I endeavoured slightly to ſketch the outlines of that scientific system of government, which seems likely to be eſtabliſhed for the happineſs of future generations; and ſhall conclude this letter, by an extract from a writer who has been an old, sincere, and useful friend to its accompliſhment.

"The great instrument in the hand of divine providence, for the progreſs of mankind towards perfection, is *society*, and consequently government. In a state of nature, the powers of any individual are diſsipated by an attention to a multiplicity of objects. The employments of all are similar. From generation to generation, every man does the same that every other does, or has done, and no person begins where another has ended; at least general improvements are exceedingly slow and uncertain. Whereas a state of more perfect society admits of a proper distribution and division of the objects of human attention. In such a state, men are connected with, and subservient to one another; so that, while one man confines himself to one single object, another may give the same undivided attention to another object. Thus the powers of all have their full effect; and hence arise improvements in all the conveniencies of life, and in every branch of knowledge. In this state of things, it requires but a few years to comprehend the whole preceding progreſs of any one art or science; and the rest of a man's life, in which his faculties may be the most perfect, may be dedicated to the extension of it. If, by this means, one art or science ſhould grow too large for an easy

comprehension, in a moderate space of time, a commodious subdivision will be made. Thus all knowledge will be subdivided and extended; and knowledge, as Lord Bacon observes, being power, the human powers will in fact be enlarged; nature, including both its materials, and its laws, will be more at our command; men will make their situations in this world abundantly more easy and comfortable; and will grow daily more happy, each in himself, and more able (and I believe more disposed) to communicate happineſs to others."

Now, Sir, nothing can secure this wonderful, yet certain progreſs of human improvement, but the continuation of wise, just, and uniform governments, that ſhall neither be subject to injury from without nor within, as the crude governments of ancient nations were, that brought all of them, within the space of a thousand years, to utter destruction.

One great engine for raising and supporting the body politic, and preventing the deterioration of mankind, is education of youth, particularly of the female sex, which has never yet entered *as a code* into any constitution of government; and I observe, with deep regret, that it has escaped the notice, or at least the attention of America and of France.

It never can be too late to adopt one, and much has been done lately in the republic of letters, to enable legislators to form one upon principle, as well as upon experience of ages.

I ſhall not venture to hazard any opinion upon this infinitely important subject; but desire to suggest the contemplation of it to every friend of huma-

nity, into whose hands these poor papers of mine may happen to fall, afsuring you, that, could I suppose that my suggestions of this contemplation would, in the smallest degree, tend to promote a general conversation on the subject, I should think the object, great as it is, almost certain of being attained. It is not grave and voluminous books that touch the public mind, but vivid flashes of truth that call a general attention, and by degrees move the mighty machine of popular opinion. I am, Mr Editor, with regard,

your humble servant,

ALBANICUS.

REMARKS ON THE ABOVE BY THE EDITOR.

I have found, by experience, what I would not have expected, from reasoning *a priori*, that many of my readers are inclined to believe, that I myself adopt the sentiments of all the writers whose lucubrations appear in this miscellany. Were this, however, to be the case, the work would very soon fall into deserved contempt. Truth is the great object of pursuit with me; but how could that be attained, were the performances of all those who think differently from myself, to be refused admifsion into it? Should I err, would not this conduct be effectually shutting the doors against the admifsion of truth? This would counteract the avowed intention of the author.

The ingenious performance above, is probably written by one who has had much better opportunities of observing facts, and who is much more capable of drawing proper inferences from these than I could do. I am proud to lay them before the public without disguise, though I am by no means prepared to

go all the lengths this ingenious writer requires. The theory of government, if we are to take *experience* for our guide, is a subject too complicated for the human mind to grasp, though, from the same experience, we are taught that nothing is more easy in speculation. An infinite number of governments have been eſtabliſhed on the globe since the beginning of time, most of which were deemed unexceptionably good, before experience had discovered the evils to which they were to give birth. In all of them innumerable defects have been discovered by time; and the predictions of immortality, which were laviſhed upon them at their birth, have soon been proved to be fallacious. To a person who seriously reflects on what has already happened, nothing but the test of actual experience, continued for ages, seems to be enough for giving any system of government a just title to applause,—all exultation before hand must be deemed premature. On this principle, those who are friends to the cause of humanity will ardently wiſh, that every attempt to alter fixed governments may tend to the public weal, though they will not be disposed raſhly to make innovations themselves, till they ſhall have seen, that experience ſhall have fully confirmed the juſtneſs of the reasoning which gave rise to these changes. Till then, a wise man will look upon the whole as hypothetical reasoning, in similar cases. Those who are mere lookers on, may be deemed peculiarly fortunate, as, if they have patience, they will have the benefit of deriving instruction from the experiment, without running the riſk of the derangements that must be felt by those who try the experiment themselves.

PHILOSOPHICAL GEOGRAPHY.

VARIATIONS OF THE GENERAL TRADE-WINDS WITHIN THE TROPICS.

Continued from p. 293.

Summasenta and other trade-winds on the eastern coast of America.

THE only places in America where the wind ſhifts regularly, are the bays of Honduras and Campeachy, on the east, and a small tract upon the coast of Brasil, and that of Panama, and some parts on the coast of Mexico, on the west. In the south part of the bay of Honduras, between Cape Gratia de Dios and Cape la Vela, the common trade-wind between E. and N. E. blows between March and November; from October till March there are westerly winds, not constant nor violent, but blowing moderately, sometimes two or three days, or a week, and then the easterly breeze may prevail for an equal length of time. The reason of the peculiarity here observed is this: During the summer season, the high land on the isthmus of Darien is so much warmed, as not to interrupt the course of the general trade-winds; but when the sun retires to the southern hemisphere, the cold upon the isthmus at that season becomes so great as to condense the air, to such a degree as to repel the trade-wind for some time; but not being rendered so intensely cold as in some of the larger continents, the trade-wind, at times, in its turn overcomes and repels these land breezes, and produces the phenomenon above described. Hence it is

that the land breezes are most prevalent, and of longest duration, in the coldest months of December and January; before and after which two months, the trade-winds prevail, being generally checked only a day or two about the full or change of the moon. As these western breezes on the coast, take their rise from the same cause as the diurnal land breezes in warm climates, they may be considered as land breezes of two or three days continuance, and forming an intermediate step between the land breezes and monsoons.

Although the influence of these breezes is felt farther off at sea, than the common diurnal breeze, yet they do not extend a great way, being seldom felt above twenty, thirty, or forty leagues from the ſhore ; and about Cape la Vela, which is much exposed to the east wind, these breezes seldom extend above eight or ten leagues from ſhore.

Land breezes of the same nature, and proceeding from similar causes, are also experienced in the winter season, in the bay of Campeachy, which are there known by the name of *Summasenta winds*. Beyond Cape la Vela these western breezes are not felt, which is undoubtedly occasioned by the whole of that coast, as far as Cape St Augustine, being so much exposed to the general trade-wind, which here sweeps along it with so much violence, as almost totally to repreſs the weaker influence of the breezes. But between Cape St Augustine and St Catharine's island, or a little farther, we again meet with a variation of the wind at different seasons, as it is here observed to blow in an E. or N. E. direction

from September till April; and from April till September from the S. W. This variable wind or monsoon, like the others on this coast, extends but for a very ſhort way from the ſhore, and is evidently occasioned by the same causes as the other periodical winds. For during the summer, which in this climate is between September and April, the land of the continent being heated by the sun, draws the trade-wind from its common course of S. E. a little to the westward; and as the coast here bends towards the S. W. the wind in some measure (as it always does) follows the same direction, and produces this E. N. E. monsoon. But in the winter, when this region becomes more cool, the east wind is repelled by the dense cold air from the mountains; by which means it is bent to the northward, and is forced along the coast to Cape St Augustine; where, meeting with no farther hinderance, it again falls in with the general trade-wind, and is carried along with it in its proper direction.

Winds on the coast of Chili and Peru.

We have purposely omitted mentioning the winds on the west coasts of Africa and America, till the others were explained, as the causes of the peculiarities here observed will be now more easily comprehended. On the coasts of Chili and Peru, in America, from 25°. or 30°. of south latitude to the line; and on the parallel coast of Angola, &c. in Africa, the wind blows all the year from the south, varying in its direction a little in different places, according to the direction of the coast, towards which it always in-

clines a little. But whatever is the direction at any one place, it continues the same throughout the whole year without any variation, and always blows from some southerly point. But there is this difference between the wind on the coasts of Chili and Angola, that it extends much farther out to sea upon the former than upon the latter.

In order to explain the cause of this singular phenomenon, it is necefsary to recollect, that the general trade-wind is produced by the concurrence of two separate causes. One is the great heat of the equatorial region, by which alone would be produced a constant north or south wind. The other is the diurnal revolution of the earth, which would cause a perpetual tendency of the air in these warm regions from east to west. From the concurrence of these two causes result the general trade-winds, which would constantly blow from S. E. or N. E. as we have already demonstrated. But if, in any particular place, one of these two powers be prevented from acting, while the other continues to exert its influence, the general direction of the wind will be varied. Thus, if the east wind was checked, while nothing interrupted the south or north wind, the air would rufh towards the equator in that direction which was nearest and easiest, whether that fhould be pointing eastward or westward. Now, as the high mountains in the internal parts of Africa and America interrupt the course of the east wind, near the surface of the earth, while those coasts, of which we now treat, are entirely open to the south, the wind naturally rufhes along the coasts of Chili and Angola from south to north; and as the low

lands, near the ſhore, in these warm regions, are generally warmer than the sea, the wind will naturally point in towards the ſhore, as is generally observed there to take place.

This then is evidently the cause of the south wind which always prevails upon the coasts of Chili and Peru, as well as along the ſhores of Angola, Loango, in Africa, *&c.* But it is only near the ſhore that this can take place; nor can it extend a great way above these low and fertile regions. For as the internal parts of these countries are exceedingly high, but more especially the Andes of America, which experience a perpetual degree of cold, more intense than some polar regions ever are subjected to, the air must here be condensed to a very great degree, and send forth from these high regions a perpetual wind to every side, which occasions almost all the peculiarities that have been remarked in these climates; for, by opposing the general current of the trade-wind upon the eastern parts of these continents, they produce those deluges of rain which feed the immense rivers of the Amazons, la Plata, *&c.* These rivers do not, like the Nile and Gambia, swell only at a particular season, and then ſhrink into a diminutive size again; but continue throughout the whole year, with a leſs variation of size, to pour their immense floods into the ocean. These cold winds, likewise, stretching to the westward, at a considerable distance above the warmest regions of the sea coast, at length descend as low as the ocean, and form the general trade-wind, and occasion that unusual degree of cold which mariners have so often complained of, even under the line, to the westward of America.

To the same cause also must we attribute the thick fogs so common upon the southern parts of Chili, and along the coasts of Peru, with the other peculiarities of that singular climate about Lima, and the kingdom of Valles, in South America; for the vapours which are exhaled in such great abundance in the warm regions on the sea ſhore, are, at a little height above the earth, condensed by the cold winds which come from the mountains, and form these thick mists which are so often observed in this climate.

The same effects are felt in some degree on the similar coasts of Africa. But as the mountains of Africa are not so high as the Andes of America, nor approach so near the western coast, the effects are leſs sensible here than in America. The great height of the Andes, above the mountains of the similarly situated country of Africa, is the only reason why the effects on that coast are not felt to an equal degree, although similar in kind.

Winds in the bay of Panama and on the Guinea coast.

A more singular deviation of the trade-wind is observed to take place on the African and American coasts to the north of the line, than those we have taken notice of to the south of it. For it is observed, that from California to the bay of Panama, all along the coast of New Spain, the winds blow almost constantly from the W. or S. W. nearly directly opposite to the trade-wind; and on the coast of Africa from Cape Bayador to Cape Verde, they blow chiefly from the N. W. standing in upon the ſhore; from thence the wind bends gradually more and more from the north to the west, and so round to S. W.

all along the coast of Guinea, as will be distinctly seen by the map.

After what we have said of the winds on the southern parts of these regions, it will be unnecessary to spend much time in explaining the causes of these peculiarities, as it will evidently appear that they are nearly the same; the variation here observed being occasioned by the particular direction of the coast. Thus, along the coast of New Spain, the wind blows nearly in the same direction in every place, as there are no remarkable bendings on that coast; being uniformly drawn towards the ſhore, by the great heat of the continent near the sea, which in these regions is always more heated than the water of the ocean, and occasions that inflection. But, as the coast of Africa is more irregular, the winds are also found to be more different in their direction. To the north of Cape Verde, as the coast stretches nearly south and north, the wind being drawn towards it a little, blows from the N. W. But beyond that the coast bends more eastward to Cape Palmas; from which it runs E. or N. E. all along the coast of Guinea, the wind ſhifting gradually more and more to the west, still pointing in upon the coast. And as there is nothing to oppose the current of air, which comes from the south along the coast of Angola, it stretches forward till it comes within the influence of the coast of Guinea, and is there drawn in towards the ſhore in a S. W. direction, but as it is only the lower regions of the coast of Guinea which are so much warmed, the high mountains within continuing cold, the northerly wind coming from these, meeting

and opposing the southerly winds in the higher regions of the air, by their mutual conflicts occasion those incefsant rains and tremenduous thunder-storms so remarkable along the whole of this uncomfortable coast.

It has been observed by mariners, that there is a tract of sea, to the west of Guinea, from five to ten degrees of north latitude, in which the trade-wind blows with lefs steadinefs than in any other part of that ocean, being almost constantly troubled with calms and tornadoes. The cause of this the reader will perceive by inspecting the map, as he will easily see that the winds are drawn from this quarter, almost in every direction, so that there can be here no constant wind; but being exhausted of its air, it must become lighter than the circumjacent parts, and must then be supplied from either side as chance or occasional circumstances may direct, which occasions those sudden flurries and tornadoes here observed.

To be continued.

REFLECTIONS OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Continued from p. 248.

"No, my dear Anaxagoras, my philosophic zeal does not vent itself against you, who are a true sage, but against those blockheads, who, afsuming the specious title of philosophers, take upon themselves to make worlds according to their whimsical hypotheses.

I had taken it for granted, from the progrefs of good sense, that science would at last have undeceived those who scrutinise nature; but I see I have been mistaken. Such world-makers I consign to the hospital for learned lunatics." *Letter CCXX.*

To be continued.

For the Bee.

TO MYRA*.

A SONG BY THOMSON NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

I.

O THOU whose tender serious eyes,
  Expressive, speak the mind I love;
The gentle azure of the skies,
  The pensive shadows of the grove:

II.

O mix their beauteous beams with mine,
  And let us interchange our hearts;
Let all their sweetness on me shine,
  Pour'd thro' my soul be all their darts:

III.

Ah!—'tis too much!——I cannot bear
  At once so soft, so keen a ray:
In pity, then, my lovely Fair!
  O turn these killing eyes away!

IV.

But what avails it to conceal
  One charm, where nought but charms we see?
Their lustre, then, again reveal,
  And let me, Myra, die of thee!

LINES FOUND IN AN OLD BOOK.

THERE was a man whose name was *semper idem*,
And, to be brief, he was *mercator quidam*,
He had a wife who was neither tall nor *brevis*,
Yet in her carriage was accounted *levis*.

He to content her gave her all things *satis*,
She to requite him made him cuckold *gratis*,
He for that same act turn'd her out of *fores*,
And bade her go and learn some better *mores*. DOMINE FELIX.

THE DETERMINATION.

LOVE and truth warm the mind of my beautiful Fair,
  And each tender tale wins her heart;
Sensibility's shrine is bedew'd with a tear,
  When fortune proclaims we must part.

Than leave the sweet maid each ill I'll endure,
  Bear insult and poverty's dart;
For riches without her to me is no lure.
  We never,—we never can part! M.

* This beautiful song, tho' addressed to Myra, was meant for Amanda; and the last line has been changed in the song set to music by Mr Urbani.

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING ARTS.

Plan for moderating the price of sugar.

The present extravagant price of sugar has attracted the attention of every clafs of persons in this island, and has brought forward many plans for remedying that evil, some of which will no doubt take effect at some *future* period; but there is reason to suspect, that the nation must submit to the hardfhip for a good while, before things can be brought to bear.

Among the first plans that was suggested for this purpose, was that of manufacturing sugar from the maple tree, in America. It has been long known, that the juice of one kind of maple, common in most of the American states, can afford a grained sugar, without any other procefs than that of evaporating the watery parts by boiling; but the quantity of water that requires to be difsipated, renders that procefs so tedious and expensive, in a country where labour is very high, as gives reason to fear the afsistance that can be derived from thence will be but very inconsiderable.

The quantity of sugar that may be imported from the East Indies, and from Africa, may be indeed immense; and if ever government fhall regulate the duties, and drawbacks, so as to put the sugars obtained from Britifh settlements in these parts, on the same footing as those from the West Indies, there seems no reason to fear that ever this country will run a rifk of being again thrown into such distrefs for this article as it is at present.

But fhould government refuse to relax the monopoly in favour of the West India islands, it does not seem to be altogether beyond the bounds of *pofsibility* to supply ourselves with sugar from the produce of our own fields; for I know of no law in existence, that authorizes the fheriff

of each county *to pluck up by the roots* the plants that produce it, as he is required to do with regard to tobacco; and I trust the æra is past, in which the nation will submit to the enactment of a new law, by which its people ſhould be effectually debarred from cultivating their own fields to the best advantage. This would, indeed, be submitting to a slavery more cruel than the bondage of the Israelites in Egypt.

Many plants, that are natives of Britain, can be made to yield *sugar* in considerable quantities, as has been fully demonstrated by a set of experiments, conducted with great care, about forty years ago, by a celebrated French chemist. It is unnecefsary to enumerate the whole here. It is enough to say, that he found no plant which afforded so much sugar as the root of the common green beet; a plant which can be reared with as much facility as any one that grows in our climate.

The result of many trials fairly ascertained, that from sixteen ounces of the freſh root, one ounce of grained sugar can be obtained. From this fact, we may compute what might be the produce in sugar from an acre of ground in this way.

A Scots acre *, it is well known, has been made to produce, in one season, seventy-two tons of parsnip root. I suppose an equal weight of beet root could be obtained; but, for the sake of moderation, call it only sixty tons; at that rate an acre might produce 8400 pounds of sugar at one crop; which at threepence *per* pound, would be worth precisely one hundred guineas. The root of scarcity, which is a plant of the same genus, and yields roots more fleſhy and free from fibres, might probably be found to yield an equal quantity of sugar, and could perhaps be cultivated with more profit than the common beet.

* Four Scotch acres are nearly equal to five Engliſh.

These facts have been long known to philosophical readers, but the circumstance which has deterred any person from ever having attempted to extract sugar, on a large scale, from this plant, is the seeming difficulty and expensiveneſs of the proceſs; a difficulty which, however, appears to be by no means insurmountable in Britain, where large capitals can be applied to purposes of this sort, when suitable returns may be occasionally expected.

The expence of the proceſs arises from this circumstance, that the sugar must be extracted from the root by means of ardent spirits; now, in making such an extract in open veſsels, great must be the waste by evaporation. If, however, the proceſs were ca ied on in close veſsels, no loſs could poſsibly be sustained from evaporation; and to any person who reflects upon the subject for a moment, it will appear obvious that nothing but the expence stands in the way of having an apartment, made of any size that ſhould be required, perfectly close, in which the whole proceſs of digestion, for making the extract, could be performed without the smallest waste. And this apartment, or veſsel, being *once* made, would stand in very little need of repairs to keep it in perfect good order for many years to come. It is unneceſsary to add, that the extract being once made, the evaporation of the spirit ſhould be made in a still, properly adapted for that purpose; by which proceſs, the spirit would be again obtained pure for carrying on the busineſs by a second proceſs. In this manner, a stock of spirits once obtained, might be continued for a long time with very little diminution, as to quantity; and consequently with little expence to the undertaker.

It is not impoſsible indeed but the spirit, during this proceſs, might be refined, and improved, so as to become an additional source of profit to the undertaker. But without dwelling on that head, or on the collateral advantage the farmer might derive from the leaves, while the plant

was growing, or the refuse of the root after the sugar was extracted, which would probably be of equal value with the raw root itself as a food for his cattle; it is enough barely to have ſhewn the practicability of obtaining sugar with advantage from our own fields, in abundance to supply our own wants, without having recourse to foreign aid, or to the labour of slaves for that article. Thus might the slave trade be annihilated, even without the intervention of law; and without the convulsive struggle that may be dreaded, ſhould that measure be pushed forward in spite of the opposition to be expected from those who believe their interest would be affected by any alteration in the law respecting this article. A struggle of *another sort* might be expected ſhould this measure be seriously adopted; and though it might be poſsible to ſhow that this opposition also would arise from *ignorance*, yet it is unneceſsary now to combat it. "Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof."

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

CORN BILL.

Continued from p. 2—262.

THE committee again sat on the 16th of March, when

Mr Ryder, said, that having moved an instruction to the committee, to provide for the importation of corn from Ireland, from Quebec, and from his majesty's colonies in North America, upon lower duties than from foreign countries, he begged to state, by way of notice, what the regulations would be that he meant to propose. The proposition would be to admit wheat from Ireland, when the average price was in this country from 46 to 48 s. the quarter, at a duty of 2 s. and 6 d.; when the average ſhould be above 48 s. at 6 d.; upon conditions, however, that the Iriſh legislature ſhould adopt similar measures with repect to Britain. Several observations of little importance

were made on the subject. The proposition was agreed to.

March 30. *Mr Powys*, moved that an humble addrefs be presented to his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to lay before the House of Commons, copies of all such information as had been received by the committee of privy council, relative to the present state of agriculture in Great Britain and Ireland, *&c.* His reason, he said, for requiring this information, was to ascertain whether or not the afsertion of some people was well founded, that neither Great Britain, nor Europe, produced a sufficient quantity of grain for the consumption of its inhabitants.

Mr Ryder objected, because some inconvenience would arise from divulging the price of corn at certain periods. He farther said, that the privy council had not gone into the state of agriculture in this country and Ireland. The motion was negatived; and Mr Powys gave notice that he fhould make a similar motion on Friday, April 1.

April 1. *Mr Powys* having accordingly made a similar motion in the house, is was negatived. He then moved, for an account of the quantities of corn, that had been imported from Ireland into Britain, and the quantities that had been exported from Britain into Ireland, for the last ten years.—Negatived.

Monday, *April* 4. In a committee on the corn bill, objections were made to the clause, subjecting vefsels to forfeiture, by *Mr Alderman Curtis* and *Lord Sheffield*.—Opposed by *the chancellor of exchequer*, on a motion by *Sir Peter Burrel*, that L. 100 for every hundred tons of the burden, fhould be deposited in the hands of some proper person till it fhould be proved that the vefsel was properly seized. The amendment was rejected;---ayes 39, noes 64. *Mr Powys* then moved, that the ports fhould not be opened for the importation of foreign wheat, till the average price rose to 52s. instead of 48s. as proposed, contending that this would tend to encourage the agriculture of the country.

Mr Ryder strenuously opposed the motion.

Lord Carysfort, Mr Pelham, Mr Pultney, Mr Bastard, Lord Sheffield, Mr Harrison, Mr H. Browne, and *Mr Fox*, supported the amendment. By these gentlemen it was in general contended, that the scarcity complained of in late years, had not been owing to a natural scarcity; but

they ascribed it entirely to a departure from the old principles of the corn laws, by the act which took place in 1773, which had tended to induce farmers to throw their lands into grafs instead of corn, from the encouragement it gave to the introduction of foreign grain. They wifhed now, they said, to recur to the former principle, and the former plenty would of course be restored.

Mr Ryder, and *Mr Pitt* opposed the amendment, ascribing the scarcity in late years, not to the operation of the law complained of, but to the encrease of wealth, of population, of luxury, of horses, of distilleries, *&c.* On a division the amendment was carried;—ayes 59, noes 63. *Adjourned.*

April 11. The committee again sat, when a long and warm debate took place, on the clause permitting the warehousing of corn.

Mr Powys complained, that after it had been once rejected, it had been again introduced without sufficient warning having been given of that intention. This position was warmly disputed by *Mr Ryder*.

Lord Sheffield argued with great force of reasoning against the whole clause; alleging many arguments to prove that it must be highly pernicious to the agriculture of this country. Among other particulars, he stated, that one hundred thousand tons of shipping came annually from the Baltic, from Flanders, and Ireland, to Liverpool for salt, [he did not specify coals,] and could afford to bring 500,000 quarters of wheat at a very small expence. He said farmers would soon see they could not raise corn in competition, and would necefsarily turn from tillage to pasture. He added, those magazines were unnecefsary, as we never had found occasion for them during the prosperous times of our corn trade.

Many other members having objected, in particular, against that part of the clause for paying the expence of warehousing by the public, *Mr Ryder* agreed to withdraw this part of the clause.

The committee then divided;—ayes for retaining the clause thus amended 86, noes 70,—majority against it, 14.

A division also took place on the clause for dividing the kingdom into districts,—ayes 65, noes 58,—majority in its favour, 7.

The remainder in a succeeding number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor owes many apologies to his correspondents for delaying their communications so long; but his narrow limits prevent him from gratifying himself by complying with their wifhes, as early as they might desire. To several respectable correspondents who have honoured him with large communications, particular apologies are due: Among these *Urania*.

To *B. A.* for his elegant efsays on taste, he begs leave to say, that as it is ever his wifh to avoid giving part of an efsay in one volume, and part of it in another, where it can be at all done, he was induced on that account to delay the whole of his efsays till the following volume, in which he hopes to get the whole included.

The same reason induced him to defer the valuable account of a journey to the Hebrides, by his much respected correspondent *Piscator*, whose modesty can only be equalled by his candour and liberality of sentiment. These travels will furnifh some interesting articles in the ensuing volume.

For the same reason the very useful observations of *E. T. obscure*, on female education, have been longer delayed than could otherwise have happened.

The important observations of *Thomas Telltruth* have been deferred to give place to the spirited remarks of *Timothy Thunderproof*, which were begun before his second No. of the *Informer* was received.

The readers of the Bee are respectfully informed that the Editor has been favoured with clear, concise, directions for the recovery of persons apparently drowned, being the result of the whole collected experience that has yet been derived from the efforts of ingenious men in the practice of this salutary art, in the different countries of Europe, communicated by a gentleman of the Faculty, whose name, were it allowed to be mentioned, would recommend it to the attention of the Public. No longer, therefore, will these important directions be confined to the cover of the Bee;—they will be now inserted in the body of the work, in compliance with the wifhes of many correspondents.

In answer to the many inquiries lately received about the poor's laws in Scotland. The Editor has the prospect of being enabled, during the currency of next volume, to present his readers with a practical disquisition on the best mode of providing for the poor, containing an historical account of the origin, progrefs, and nature of the poor's laws in England and in Scotland; with a concise view of the tendency of compulsory and voluntary provisions for the poor, in respect to the morals, industry, and domestic œconomy of the people.

To those who have, from different quarters, solicited farther information respecting the rearing of silk worms in this country, he begs leave to say, that as he always prefers the result of practice on the spot, to accounts derived from countries pofsefsing a different climate from our own, the Editor has set on foot inquiries in different quarters, respecting this important department, from persons who have had experience in it; and he has reason to believe he will soon be favoured with information that may be depended on, which fhall be delayed no longer than is necefsary for obtaining it authentic. A little delay, when this is the object, will, he hopes, be readily approved of.

*** The letter respecting Virgil's Georgics is just received. What the writer suggests, fhall be duly noticed in our next number.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

January 18. 1792.

FOREIGN.

THAT heavy political cloud which has long lowered over the horizon of France with a threatening aspect, has, of late, become more and more gloomy, and seems to portend that an important crisis is at hand, big with the fate of thousands, which excites a foreboding anxiety in the mind of every attentive beholder. The emigrant princes, on the one hand, have omitted no exertion that was in their power, to rouse up foreign enemies to the late establiſhed constitution of France, and to encourage internal divisions in the state; while the new national aſsembly, on the other hand, appear to be equally forward in alarming the national fears, and exciting the ardent spirit of the French, not only to take up arms in their own defence, but even to ruſh forward in quest of their enemies, where-ever they can find them, even in the territories of other princes. Whether they will carry these raſh threats into actual execution, no person can tell: For altho' it indicates a degree of political insanity, that nothing but actual desperation could excuse, yet such acts of desperation have been seen; and no nation seems to be in a fitter state for it, than the French at the present moment. The present national aſsembly, unacquainted with the functions of the important busineſs devolved upon them, seems to be exceedingly embarraſsed on all occasions how to proceed. The levies of the taxes have fallen so exceedingly ſhort of the neceſsary expenditure of the state, and the difficulty of enforcing the collection of these in the present state of affairs, seems to them to be such as to deter them from attempting it. To lose time, in these circumstances, would seem to threaten, in their eyes, evils of a more serious nature, than those they are going to encounter. In this deranged state of their finance, they have resolved to put arms in the hands of more than 300,000 men. To let

these men loose, without a regular fund for paying them, among the subjects of the French nation themselves, seems to be an idea too frightful to the national aſsembly. Better carry the war into the territories of another state, where pillage will not appear to be a crime altogether of such a heinous nature, as it would be in their own country. Whether king and his friends will be able to moderate these exertions, as they seem to wiſh, cannot as yet be known.

The leſser states that border upon France, are not insensible of the danger they run in this extremity, and appear to be well disposed to avert the evil by every poſsible conceſsion. But the emperor, and the greater princes, whose states are not in the same degree of danger, having determined to oppose any attack upon the Germanic body, will poſsibly prevent them from complying with the requisitions of the French, in the manner that is required. In these circumstances it seems to be impoſsible to guard against the ſhock of arms.—The sword is, to all appearance, soon to be drawn; and when it will be ſheathed again, no human foresight can foretell.—God grant it may be soon! But before that can happen, the effusion of much human blood can hardly be avoided, and the distreſs that these scenes must occasion to many individuals, who may survive the carnage of their friends, and the ruin of their affairs, must be dreadful to contemplate.

The emperor and the king of Pruſsia have concluded a defensive alliance, the preliminaries of which will be signed at Vienna in a few days.

In the new treaty between the emperor and the king of Pruſsia, the latter has undertaken to guarantee the Germanic constitution, and all the rights and poſseſsions of the empire.

The meſsage of the national aſsembly to the king, recommending vigorous measures against the powers who suffer the emigrants to aſsemble in arms on their territories, has produced different effects in the petty courts of Germany.

The elector of Mayence, confiding in the distance of his territories, which the French cannot enter but through the Palatinate, wrote to the magistrates of Worms, of which he is biſhop, to disregard all menaces of hostility, and to answer openly, that the emigrants were aſsembled, armed, and exercised, by the expreſs permiſsion of his Electoral Highneſs.

The prince biſhop of Spire, being open to attack, and dreading the defection of his own subjects, thought it prudent to adopt more pacific measures.

The elector of Treves, in a letter to the princes at Coblentz, renewed, but in the most mild, and apparently reluctant terms, his declaration, that he could not permit any recruiting or embodying of men, or any armed corps of any description, within his territories; afsigning as a reason, that although he was under no apprehension of an invasion from France, it was his duty to quiet the alarms of his own subjects; and concluding with expreſsing his hopes, that the princes would give a declaration in writing, of their resolution, to take the neceſsary measures to deprive the military of France of all pretext for hostilities against those who had afforded them an asylum, and every aid in their power.

Vienna, Dec. 3. the emperor has set at liberty Madam Theroigne, and has ordered all the expences of her journey to be paid. This young lady, after having been a long time detained in the fortreſs of Kuffstein, in Tirol, was brought to Vienna to undergo an examination touching the pretended plot against the life of the queen of France.

On the 15th Dec. the new officers of the national guard, to the number of 1800, took (in the square before the town-hall) the oath prescribed, in the presence of the mayor, and the municipal officers; and afterwards, preceded by the municipality, they waited on the king, and were introduced to him immediately; they filed off before his majesty in the apartments, whilst the band of music played in the gallery. The queen, the prince-royal, and madame Elizabeth, were present at the ceremony.

New York, Sept. 13. We are aſsured from unquestionable authority, that the gentleman (Mr H———gs) who purchased of the commiſsioners of the Land Office upwards of four millions of acres of land, (equal to about a seventh part of the whole territory of the state,) has refused L. 50,000 for his bargain, estimating the nett profit of his contract at L. 250,000, he is to pay to the state only L. 137,000 for the whole purchase in six years.

Several ſhips arrived at St Maloes with letters from the Cape, dated the 25th and 26th of October bring accounts of the entire suppreſsion of the negroes there.

The Highlanders who emigrated last season to Nova Scotia are said to pe in the most melancholy situation.

The state of Venice fearing, like Sweden, to experience the anger of the barbarian states, has added considerably to the customary present of 10,000 sequins, which was annually made to the latter power.

By the last American news-

papers, it appears that the fæderal legislature has proposed an amendment to the United States,—namely, to increase the number of representatives from the respective states of that nation, so that the congreſs ſhall, in future, consist of 200 members, instead of 100, as originally settled by the constitution

The princes in the neighbourhood of France, as the duke of Wirtemburg, have been solicitous to testify how much they desire even to live in good understanding with France, by giving it no cause of uneasineſs. On this subject the duke has written a letter to general Luckner, to remind him, that if he ſhould be obliged to enter his country, he hoped that he, the general, would distinguiſh it as that which is most deserving of the consideration of the French nation.

The king has astoniſhed France by refusing his aſsent to the decree concerning the clergy; the national aſsembly, however, heard their will opposed with wonderful composure, and a species of dignity, of which even their partisans did not think them susceptible; not a breath was stirring when the royal negative was anounced; but the day after, a member moved for an appeal to the nation, who alone could decide whether *an individual* ſhould be allowed the dangerous power of invalidating the volition of twenty-five millions of men;—the motion was loaded with contempt. The different sections of the capital, are, however, now aſsembling to expreſs to the aſsembly their high displeasure at the king's conduct, which they construe into treason against the nation.

The pope, before his illneſs, was making some considerable additions to the Vatican palace; in one angle of which is a superb room for the reception of the valuable antiquities which have been dug up within the last three years, among which is a beautiful chariot, which the ancients used in their races, and an immense vase of porphyry. His holineſs has likewise laid the foundation of a magnificent palace in the Piazza de Pasquino for the residence of his nephew.

A letter from Dr Magenis, of the Iriſh college at Liſbon, gives a most awful account of the earthquake which happened in that city on Sunday night, Nov. 27. The first ſhock was felt about twenty minutes after eleven, and consisted of five or six strong vibrations, so closely following each other, that they could scarce be distinguiſhed. After a pause of near five minutes, one very violent undulatory motion, that ſhook the whole house, succeeded, attended by a loud and tremenduous craſh, which, after a rustling

noise, and several hiſses, like those we might imagine to proceed from a great maſs of flaming iron suddenly quenched in cold water, went off with the report of a cannon. Mean time the streets were crowded with the multitudes flying from their houses, whose chimnies were falling about their ears. The bells of St. Roche tumbled in all directions, and tolled in the most horrid sounds.

After the first fright had a little abated, the churches were opened, and soon filled with multitudes, to deprecate the mischiefs of 1755, and implore the divine mercy. Between six and seven, her majesty, with her household, set out for Belem, followed by almost every person of quality, who retired to some distance.—So lasting was the consternation, that no buſineſs was done at the exchange, the custom-house, or quays.—The theatres were ſhut, and all public diversions forbid till further orders. Prayers were made three times a-day in the churches, and the whole city, like that of ancient Nineveh, seems repenting in sackcloth and aſhes.

Domestic.

It is said, that great as the surplus of the revenue was last year, that of the present year will exceed it by L. 1,600,000.

The Fazely and Birmingham canal, which has proved so advantageous to that seat of industry and arts, on which was expended upwards of L. 100,000 a few years ago, is now so far improved in value, that a ſhare which cost L. 140 was lately sold for L. 1080.

Conjugal fidelity.—A female, wife to a man who was sometime since transported to New South Wales for robbing a bookseller, having the sum of L. 2000 lately left her by a relation, has engaged herself a paſsenger to that settlement.

It is computed, that upon an average, the Dutch receive annually from this kingdom not leſs than L. 80,000 for the single article of turbot.

Friday morning, Dec. 16. about two o'clock, Mr Justice Hyde, accompanied by Tapp, the high constable, and about forty petty constables, went to a gaming-house in St James's street kept by a Mr W———, and knocked at the door, which was opened directly, on which Tapp and the whole party ruſhed in, and on proceeding up one pair of stairs, found about twenty gentlemen at play at different games, and near five hundred guineas on the table, which the magistrate immediately took into custody, while the constables did the like to the gentlemen, who were taken to the office in St Martin's street, and were afterwards bailed out. Among them

were several officers of the guards, and some men of very high characters and credit.

After they had secured all they found in the above house, they proceeded a little higher up the street, to the house of Mr B———, a place dedicated to the like sports; but the alarm having been given by some chairmen who had seen the businefs at the former place, when the worthy magistrate and his party arrived, the house was quite empty; but the tables at this, as well as the other place, were brought away, with a great number of cards, dice, *&c.* which were yesterday afternoon taken in a cart, from St Martin's street to St James street, about one o'clock, and burnt opposite the respective houses from which they had been taken, to the great satisfaction of his *worſhip*, and about five hundred of the *canaille*, who had afsembled on the occasion. It was four o'clock before they were all consumed.

One of the gaming-tables burnt on Friday, in St James's street, was of curious and exquisite workmanſhip, and cost L. 150.

On Tuesday, Dec. 19. the high Court of Justiciary met, according to adjournment of Monday.

James Plunket was put to the bar, the sentence of death, pronounced against him by the last circuit Court of Justiciary at Glasgow was read over, and afterwards his own judicial confesion and declaration, acknowledging that he was the same James Plunket.

Their lordſhips then delivered their opinions, purporting, that nothing remained with the court but to appoint a day for his execution, in terms of the former sentence; and, though they were not tied down to grant a specific number of days, in this case, between pafsing sentence and ordering the same to be put in execution. The time fixed for his execution was therefore appointed to be Wednesday the 11th of January next, to take effect at Glasgow, the place where the crime was committed.

On Tuesday a cause was determined by the Court of Sefsion, which will settle a point upon which a judgement was much wanted.

The question was ſhortly this, whether the proprietor of a dog was liable for the damage done by him? Several months ago, two dogs went into a ſheep fold in Leith links, in the night time, and killed a number of ſheep. The proprietor of the ſheep brought an action against the owner of the dogs for an indemnification of his lofs. After various procedure, their lordſhips found, that the proprietor of the dogs was liable for the damages they

had done, and also for the expences of procefs.

Enormous increase of West India property.—Mr Baillie of Bedford-square lately purchased an estate in Grenada for L. 100,000, which, by the increase of the price of sugars, netts L. 10,000 *per annum*. An adjoining estate of Sir James Johnstone's, which lately only produced *seven*, now netts *eleven* thousand, and is daily increasing in value.

Mr Beckford's estate in Jamaica this year netts 2200 hogfheads of sugar, and from the high price which that article bears, his revenue may be estimated at 82,000 l. These are the consequences of monopoly.

The prime cost of sugars at Jamaica is now 60s. the hundred weight;—a price which was never before known.

On Saturday last, a young man of about 16 years of age, the only support of an aged father and mother, while endeavouring to clear the snow off a window in the roof of Mefsrs Fulton's cotton work at Lochwinoch, fell to the ground, and was unfortunately killed. Mefsrs Fulton, in order to prevent the old people from becoming a burden on the parifh, have generously made a provision for them equivalent to what the son earned in their service.

The enemies to the slave trade are encouraged in their exertions by an advertisement anouncing the sale of what are termed free sugars,—that is, sugars imported raw from the East Indies, and refined here, being entirely the produce of the labour of free men.

Last Sunday Dec. 25. between six and seven in the evening, there was a great storm of thunder at Greenock; the flafhes of lightning were very vivid; two of the peals of thunder seemed to be very near the town: Some sailors on board the Minerva, at the tail of the bank, were stunned by the lightning, but soon recovered.

A duel was fought at Ramsgate, Yorkfhire, between John Watson, of Nenagh, in Ireland, and C. H. Fox, Esqrs; the latter of London; when, after exchanging one fhot each, Mr Fox received a ball under his right breast, in consequence of which he died since in London, where he was removed by his own desire the day after.

The Pitt Manning, bound to Botany Bay, with convicts, lost, in her voyage to Port Praya, only eight males and three children.

Dec. 30. died at his house in Throgmorton street, Mr John Ellis, at the very advanced age of ninety-six. He, a few days ago, resigned the office of deputy of Broad street Ward, owing to infirmity of body. He has been a member

of the corporation nearly half a century.

Mr Ellis was a man of literature, and the pleasure he received from literary amusements remained with him to the last. He wrote some poems in Dodsley's collection, and some Hudibrastic translations; but never put his name to any thing he publiſhed.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4. the sugar lately imported by the East India Company, was sold at the India House.

It was partly in bags, of about two and a half hundred weight each, and partly in caſks of about three hundred weight each; the whole quantity sold was about 15,000 cwt.

It was all, except four lots, bought by one man, at the price of nearly L. 7 *per* cwt. The real purchaser is said to be a sugar refiner, who profeſses to deal in sugar that is not raised by the labour of slaves.

The West India planters begin to fear that parliament will lower the duty on sugar imported from the East Indies, to the standard of the duty on sugar imported from the West. Such prices as the above would be a sufficient inducement to import from the East Indies without any alteration of the duty.

The mere marble of Mrs Damer's Coloſsal statue of the king, costs between two and three hundred pounds! It is for the Register Office in Scotland.

We hear that a question of infinite concern to retail linen drapers will be brought forward the ensuing term. The question is, whether gown patches, or part of pieces, are liable to seizure as whole ones, not having stamps on the end. A seizure of this kind was lately made at Sunbury, in Middleſex; and this important question wi[...] be tried in the Court of Exch[...]quer, in order that no futu[...] misunderstanding may aris[...] and a final period be put to [...] affair which for many years h[...] proved a great inconvenien[...] to the retail traders in th[...] kingdom.

The late elopement of M[...] S—— with Mr N—— has be[...] much spoken of. It appea[...] that the young lady found ho[...] rather disagreeable, from t[...] severity of her parents towa[...] her, and therefore availed h[...]self of the opportunity of rec[...]ving the offer of Mr N——[...] who took her off to Gret[...] Green, from whence they [...] just returned. The young [...]dy is only seventeen, and ha[...] very handsome fortune; t[...] gentleman is much older, a[...] has nothing.

The effects of novel readi[...] ſhew that they ought to be d[...]couraged in boarding-scho[...] A school girl affecting to fa[...] in church, for the purpose of going off with a jovial tar, in a *clerical* habit, is doubtleſs an incident suggested by some modern romance.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

February 8. 1792.

FOREIGN.

MOST of the Engliſh families reſident within the French territories on the German frontiers have received a general intimation, by order of the National Aſsembly, that their removal out of France is neceſsary for their own ſecurity.

A few weeks ago at Liege, at the ſale of a library belonging to a deceaſed lawyer, the ſale of Voltaire's Queſtions on the Encyclopedie and Monteſquieu's Spirit of Laws were forbid by order of the Government.

Twelve or fourteen perſons were killed, and many more wounded, by an earthquake in Zante, on the 13th of November. The greateſt part of the inhabitants have ſince reſided in tents in the open country.

Emigration.—A gentleman of Glaſgow has received a letter from a correſpondent in New Brunſwick, dated 10th November 1791, in which, after giving a flattering account of the country, in order to induce his friend to ſettle there and begging this account may be ſpread, he adds,—"Do you ſtill follow the ſea?—*There is great room for ſpeculation with a cargo of men and women ſervants from the north of Scotland, who would* SELL *to much profit, if indented for four or five years.* Two hundred and fifty in a brig would not ſtock this place with any ſuperfluous number, as labourers on farms, and ſome mechanics, (*viz.* weavers, wrights, maſons,) are much wanted by the landed gentlemen here.

The cattle liſt for the city of Paris laſt year, is 130,000 oxen, 76 calves, 850,000 ſheep, and 30,000 pigs.

Accounts received in town lately from Breſt, announce the ſpeedy preparations making there for equipping, with all expedition, thirteen ſail of the line and four frigates.

In the courſe of laſt month, two Engliſh ſhips arrived at Marſeilles; on coming to anchor, they fired a ſalute, which was returned by one of the forts. They then hoiſted the French national flag, and ſaluted it with three cheers. This compliment

was not to be withstood by the patriotism of the city. The municipality, in their robes of ceremony, came down in procefsion with 2000 marines, and carried the crews of the two vefsels on fhore, where they were entertained with whatever they pleased to call for the whole day. It is almost unnecefsary to add, that the captains disposed of their cargoes, and had their choice of a frefh lading with all pofsible dispatch.

Trieste, Dec. 6. We have received here a frefh confirmation of the troubles which have broken out in Asia. The city of Damascus and the neighbouring district have taken up arms to free themselves from the numerous imposts with which they were burthened. The pacha of Bagdad had received orders to march against the rebels, but excused himself from so doing, as being fearful of his own city. The provinces which have revolted, are three in number, and have for their chief Myr-Timur Khan, who, we are afsured, has secret connections with Persia.

Constantinople, Dec. 17. The insurrection of the Beys of Egypt becomes daily more alarming, and causes much uneasinefs to his highnefs.

The Stamp-office at Brufsels has been broken open, and robbed of 15,000 florins.

The queen of Portugal has granted to the company of cultivators of vines, on the banks of the Duero, a new patent fo twenty years, to take place from the year 1797, as a recompence for the capital laid out by them upon several new commercial undertakings.

The earthquake so much felt at Lifbon, was perceived also in several other parts of Portugal. At Baje, the inhabitants quitted their houses, and formed a camp in the neighbouring plains.

Ratifbon, Dec. 27. We are afsured that the king of Prufsia has declared to the emprefs of Rufsia, that he will not meddle, either directly or indirectly in the affairs of France. This does not entirely agree with what pafsed at Pilnitz, where the affairs of France were particularly mentioned: Many people, however, are of opinion that this is only matter of form.

The sums ifsued for secret service, by the states of Brabant to some of their own members, amount to L. 1,844,756.

The same earthquake that ravaged the little island of Zante, has been also experienced in the Morea, where its effects have been dreadful.

A letter is received in town from Jamaica, dated the 21st of November, by the fhip George, arrived at Lancaster, giving an account of the death of the Right Hon. the Earl of Effingham, Governor of that island, on the 19th of November. On account of his Lordfhip's illnefs the packet had been detained

for some time, but was to sail about the 28th November.

The empreſs of Ruſsia, in the definitive treaty with the Turks, has insisted upon, and obtained every point in her favour contained in the preliminary articles, although the signing of those articles cost the Turkiſh Minister his head.

Letters from Jamaica inform us, that some symptoms of disturbance among the negroes had been manifest in that island; in consequence of which the goverment had sent all the frigates on that station to coast round it, and throw in stores at every principal town.

The Prince of Condè, previous to his quitting Worms, aſsembled his noble army, and thus addreſsed them: "Gentlemen, It is giving you no information to tell you that *circumstances* compel us to change quarters; it is a *contre tems*, no doubt, but I hope it will not affect your ardour more than it does mine—my resolution is fixed not to abandon you but in *death*: In proportion as we approach *the mark*, and we are hasting to it, we must expect that persecutions will increase; but between persecution and succeſs there lies no middle way; we must submit to one in order to obtain the other."

The treaty of mutual guarantee and defensive alliance lately concluded between the empreſs of Ruſsia and the King of Sweden, for the protection of their European dominions, is to continue for eight years.

Should the king be attacked by any hostile power, the empreſs engages to aſsist him, as soon as poſsible after the requisition, with 22,000 infantry, and 3000 cavalry, to serve where-ever he may have most occasion for them. The troops to be ready in one, two, three, or at most four months, fully equipped with arms, provisions, *&c.* She is also to furniſh eleven ſhips of the line and three frigates; the first mounting from sixty to seventy, the latter thirty guns each.

The king, in his turn, engages to supply the empreſs when called upon, with 8000 foot, and 2000 horse, six ſhips of the line and two frigates, carrying the same metal as those of the empreſs.

Paris Jan. 19. The emperor has ordered quarters to be prepared near the frontiers, from Neufchateau to Coirton, for 10,000 men; from Coirton to the neighbourhood of Metz, for 5000; and magazines of forage, provisions, *&c. &c.* for 30,000 are also preparing at proper distances.

His policy is now decided; he makes his stand behind the treaty of Westphalia, and seems to leave the emigrants to themselves.

All the late advices from Oporto, confirm the accounts

of the short produce of their last vintage, and the increased demand for their wines. The farmers in consequence, have so raised their prices to the merchants, that port wine is already advanced three pounds the pipe.

Barcelona, Dec. 23. A few days ago, about 200 officers arrived in Catalonia from Rousillon and Perpignan, from whence they made their escape.

Genoa, Dec. 24. On Wednesday last died, at the age of eighty, Mark Durazzo, ex-doge of this republic.

Letters from the isle of France inform us, that the flag of independence has been hoisted at the Cape of Good Hope; the inhabitants who have been oppressed by the monopoly of the Dutch East India Company, assembled, and declared to the governor, that they were determined on having a free trade, and no troops, finding themselves fully competent to their own protection; at the same time signifying that if he did not chuse to comply with their terms, there was a vessel ready to convey him to Europe.

Three hundred houses were burnt at Port-au-Prince, in St Domingo, in the fire maliciously occasioned by the mulattoes on the 22d of November, and which lasted from Tuesday morning to Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock.

Recent accounts from St Domingo inform that the affairs of that colony are in a train of being settled, the negroes appearing to be weary of doing mischief. But the destruction which has already been committed there, has wholly ruined every prospect of revenue from it for many years to come.

M. Bouille has not succeeded in his negociations for 10,000 Hessians for the emigrant Princes, but the Landgrave is said to have agreed to let them have all the malefactors at a louis d'or a head. This is certainly much more œconomical than Mr Pitt's plan of transportation to Botany Bay.

The adherents of the French Princes, like the followers of the house of Stuart, were encouraged to quit their country, and ruin their fortunes, to promote the views of foreign powers; and for the convenience of those very powers, they are now driven from one place of refuge to another, in the rigour of winter, and through roads almost impassable. Several hundreds of Mirabeau's legion have returned to France with their arms and baggage.

Domestic.

The prince of Wales in company lately declared aloud his determination of relinquishing the *turf* for ever, and that his stud of running horses at New-

market would forthwith be brought under the hammer.

Prince Edward, during his residence in Canada, has conducted himself with such propriety and affability, as has acquired him from the inhabitants a kind and degree of esteem, far exceeding that senseleſs veneration ſhewn merely to birth and high rank.

It is said that the expence for paying off the Ruſsian armament last year, will not be deducted from the surplus of revenue, but will be defrayed by extending, for a ſhort time, the taxes imposed for defraying the expences of the armament against Spain.

The West India merchants have voted a present of L. 500 to captain Bligh, of his majesty's navy, as a compliment for services rendered while on the West India station.

They have also voted a present of a handsome sword, value L. 200, to captain Samuel Hood, of the navy, for saving, at the hazard of his own life, while on the West India station, the lives of three seamen who were floating at the mercy of the waves on a raft of timber.

The East India Company have presented to the Peſhew of Mahrattas, a pair of magnificent globes, of the value of 500 guineas,

The globes in their mounting, stand five feet high. They are twenty-eight inches in diameter. The advantage from the high mounting is, that the observer sitting, has in his view, without turning the globe, the whole range of latitude from one pole to the other.

The celestial globe ſo far differs totally from the ordinary custom, that all the imaginary forms are omitted. The surface is blue foil; on it above 5000 stars are laid down in the prescribed positions, and discriminated farther by their size and colour. The spots thus representing stars, gold, silver, and red foil, all are within the surrounding varniſh.

The mounting of both globes is in silver.

Mr John Wallis, *jun.* who was ſhot by Hubbard, the mock duke, (and for which he is now in confinement in Warwick goal,) is in a state of perfect recovery.

Jan. 14. Between two and three o'clock, a fire broke out at the Pantheon in Oxford street, which has entirely destroyed the whole of that beautiful building, so long dedicated to purposes of public amusement, and lately fitted up as a theatre for the Italian operas.

The fire began in a room where some painters had been at work the evening before, at the farther end of the building which communicated to the stage, and from thence to the audience part. The fire did not materially damage any of

the houses near. Nothing was saved but a few benches and a little stage *property*,—and this large fabric is now one entire ſhell.

Nothing is talked of in great circles but the winnings and loſings at the faro table. Tho' this game is common in most countries, it is no where carried to so criminal an extreme as in England.

The immense bounty given at this time on sugars exported, amounting to 31 s. 6 d. *per* cwt. empowers the West India merchants, and their friends, the *grocers* and *refiners*, to vend goods to foreigners of the same quality sold here for 112 s. at 90 s. 6 d. by which there is a gain of 10 s. *per* cwt. more than selling here at 112s. and the foreigner receives the produce of our colonies, at a guinea and sixpence leſs price than the Engliſhman.

Longevity.—Near Tuam, in Ireland, lately died, Thomas Wims, in the 117th year of his age. He fought in 1701 at the siege of Londonderry.

It is said that the produce of the Excise in the year 1791, exceeds that of the preceding year, in no leſs a sum than L. 1,234,000.

The remainder of Mr Farrer's estate is now finally sold. It was bought in the year 1703 for L. 27,00. It was sold for L. 90,500!

A number of ſheep, in the high grounds of Scotland, have been lost in the snows. The severity of the weather, and the drifting of the snow, have also been fatal to many in the south, as well as the west and and northern parts of the country.

The Duke of York has signified to his friends, that he expects daily to be called on urgent affairs to his principality in Germany; and farther that he is likely to be appointed to a principal command in the Pruſsian service, ſhould that power take any active part in attempting a counter-revolution in France.

Mason, the poetical veteran, has at length put an end to the impudent usurpations of his merits, by confeſsing himself the author of the heroic epistle to Sir William Chambers.

A more critical winter for the underwriters has not been witneſsed for many years. Almost every port on the coast, from the number of veſsels put in for succour, gives evidence of the disastrous effects of the late tempestuous weather. Dover, Ramsgate, Dartmouth, and Plymouth harbours, are crowded with nearly an equal proportion of distreſs; and in Cowes no leſs than twenty foreign ſhips are now unloading to repair damages sustained.

Upon his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales entering the audience-room on Wed-

nesday, a nobleman cautioned him to be upon his guard, as he was very suspicious of there being some thieves in the room; soon after an atempt was made by a person unseen to break the guard from the sword, which his Royal Highneſs perceiving, immediately turned, and found it hanging by a mere thread.

The diamonds that they would have obtained, had they effected their purpose, would have been worth about L. 3000 pounds.

Remarkable instances of industry.

Mr Peele, of Manchester, was (to his great credit be it spoken) a porter at 1 s. a-day. He gave a draft for L. 63,000 when he bought the borough of Tamworth of the present Marquis of Bath.

His partner, and Mr Phillips were common workmen also.

Sir R. Arkwright was a barber at Manchester in 1774. Sir Frank Standiſh kept him at Preston, to qualify him as a voter there.

In 1790, General Burgoyne was not a little alarmed, expecting Sir Richard Arkwright to be a candidate against him.

John Wilkinson, Esq; now by his succeſsful ſkill, one of the first iron masters and coalminers in the kingdom was, 20 years ago, a common clerk at Ruabon and Wrexham.

Sir R. Hotham, who is so well known for his opulence, and his use of it, was at his outset a domestic to Calcraft, the agent.

Sir Richard has, among other instances of rare magnificence, built an inn, a church, and a town, on the coast near Chichester, exceeded by none but the similar buildings of the marquis of Down.

A forgery to a very considerable amount, it is said, has been discovered on the Bank of England; the parties suspected are two of the clerks; one is now in custody, the other is absconded. A private examination took place last night before the Directors and two Magistrates, the result of which was, a committment of the party suspected, for farther examination.

On Thursday the price of sugars rose 9 s. *per* hundred weight, and even at this exorbitant price there were not many people inclined to sell. About 50 hogſheads were sold.

A person has made some discoveries respecting the fire at the Pantheon, which may lead to strong suspicion, and confirm the idea, that it was set on fire wilfully, but by *whom* perhaps will never be proved.

One ſhip has sailed, and another is setting out from Bristol for the new settlement of Sierra Leona, on the coast of Africa. They are loading with all kinds of implements for building, and with tools for carpenters, joiners, blacksmiths, and other trades, as well as

with instruments for cultivating the ground, which is represented as remarkably fertile.

In each ſhip are accommodations for forty or fifty artificers and huſbandmen, who are going to settle in the country under the protection of the company.

It is supposed that by the beginning of the ensuing year, the company will have 2000 acres planted with sugar canes. The natives of the country are to be engaged to work for hire, and to the people who go out from hence tracts of land are to be aſsigned. Every man is to have twenty acres; if he has a wife, he is to have ten more; and for each child an additional five acres.

It is reported, that the Dutch sold out above L. 700,000, from our funds on Tuesday; notwithstanding which, the stocks rose.

The poor laws, and the evils they produce among the people, are at length beginning to receive some small check by local arrangements of different districts. The burthens upon the people, for the payment of interest on the national debt, by the wisdom and humanity of former governments do not exceed seventeen millions—while for the poor rates alone above L. 31,000,0000. Sterling are now drained from the people!—At such enormity of oppreſsion, the smallest partial redreſs effected must be acceptable tidings to the community. At Shrewſbury, by introducing invariably a plan of systematic labour, they make the poor earn more than they spend. At Wrexham no pauper is relieved that keeps a dog. At Norton in Staffordſhire, no pauper is relieved who drinks tea and sugar.

The Shrewſbury œconomy on the poor rates is thus remarkable;—there are six pariſhes in the town—the expence of one of them, under the mischievous authority of the poor laws, was L. 2700 a-year—at present the whole six pariſhes do not spend L. 2600 a-year.

A very splendid embaſsy to the Emperor of China, is about to be sent from this country, and Lord Macartney has had the offer of being appointed to it.

The Swallow packet which has been so anxiously looked for from India has at last reached England.

Intelligence of this kind was received lately in the city and was announced at the India House.

About three weeks ago, a farmer in the pariſh of Borthwick, Scotland, sold 100 lambs to a butcher in Edinburgh for 100 guineas. Last year he did the same.

The many alarming fires that have taken place in this city of late through carleſsneſs, call for the serious attention of the inhabitants.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

February 29. 1792.

Foreign.

After the public had waited with great impatience for news from India, by the arrival of the Swallow packet, that impatience has been in part abated, in a manner highly satisfactory to the minister. By this packet, which arrived three days before the meeting of parliament, the Madras courier, has been brought over as low down as October 15. by which, affairs in India are represented to be in a situation much more favourable for the British arms than we had any reason to expect; and such parts of L. Cornwallis's dispatches as have been made public concur in cherishing the same ideas, altho' we were formerly told, that in the hasty retreat from Seringapatam, and the still more hasty march of general Abercrombie, the British train of artillery, and baggage, were in both cases abandoned, and that the army had suffered very much from famine and fatigue; yet that still, as if it had raised battering cannon from heaven, they are ready to take the field, as soon as the dry season sets in, with the most afsured prospect of succefs. We are told that Tippoo, who carried his whole army and baggage acrofs the Cavary, in the face of the enemy, with scarcely any lofs, is now reduced to the most deplorable distrefs; that he has neither resources of money nor of men; yet it has happened that scarcely one deserter has left him to join the enemy. How these accounts and facts are to be reconciled, time will discover.

We were told, before the war began, that Tippoo was one of the most cruel despots that ever ruled over a nation; that he was so much disliked by all his subjects, that he would be infallibly deserted by his whole people, as soon as any army should appear in the country, powerful enough to afford his subjects protection against his fury. We now know that all these afsertions have been contradicted by the most undeniable facts. His troops

have stood firm to their duty, not a man has deserted him; and so faithful have his subjects been that our generals have been unable to obtain intelligence, even of the movements of the different parties belonging to ourselves. Our troops have been wandering like men in a mist, and have not known of the approach of either friends or foes, till they came within sight of each other; while Tippoo has had the best intelligence of all our movements on every occasion. It now appears that this ferocious monster, as we have been accustomed to call him, is a kind and affectionate son, and an indulgent master, that he has been busied during his whole reign in protecting the lower orders of his people from the ruinous gripe of grandees, and in promoting manufactures and agriculture in his dominions, in which he has succeeded in a manner unexampled in Europe, even not excepting the great Frederick himself. This will appear from the following private letter brought from India by the Swallow packet, written by an eye witneſs, and communicated by a friend. It gives, besides, a view of generalſhip *on our side*, that cannot fail to command the *admiration* of *gentlemen in the army*; yet this is the man whom every Britiſh subject, in idea, talks of *exterminating* with as much indifference as we would talk of plucking up a thistle by the root; and all this for what? To satisfiy the caprice of a banditti who are eager to ſhare in the spoils. Who is to suppreſs the ravages of the Mahrattas after Tippoo ſhall be extirpated? This is a question that requires at least a serious discuſsion, which it seems not yet to have obtained, either in India or in Britain.

Extract of a letter from Bangalore, Sept. 19. 1791.

"You will perceive by the Madras courier, that though little decisive has been done since the capture of Bangalore, yet that Tippoo is now nearly vanquiſhed; the loſs of that fort ruined him, and our getting poſseſsion of it may be looked upon as one of those fortunate circumstances which decide the fate of an empire. I say fortunate; for we had no right to expect it; and, in all probability, Tippoo would then have reduced us to the lowest ebb. The fort is a large oval, with thick high ramparts, and a very deep and dry ditch around, except at the two extremities, where the gate-ways are. At each end there are five gate-ways, inclosed in a large square projection, with towers, ramparts, *&c.* which was thought by Tippoo to be very strong; here the ditch was discontinued. We had for a long time breached one of the curtains, but found

that there was a deep ditch in front, that would have probably baffled our attempts to get in. On learning that there was no ditch at the gate-ways, the guns were turned against them, and very great destruction done in a short time. It became however necessary to take it or abandon it immediately; there was not above one day's ammunition remaining, and Tippoo had cut embrazures through the bank of a tank, that would have flanked our batteries, and obliged us to storm them next morning, though protected by the guns of the fort, which kept up a tremenduous, though ill directed fire. The enemy had expected a storm for two nights before, and had been on the watch; but being fatigued, they were surprised on the third. There were only two possible ways to get in, both of which might have been easily defended, the tops of the two retaining walls of the square inclosure that communicated with the ramparts, upon which we got up by the slope occasioned by the destruction of the walls.

The storming party, when they ascended the gate-way, contrary to what was intended, gave a huzza, which convinced the garrison that they were near at hand, though they were by no means in possession of the place. The garrison was immediately panic struck, and, instead of doing any thing effectual, they began firing all the guns of the fort, in every direction, to drown their fears. There were near fifteen hundred killed that night, and about fifty every night of the siege.

Lord Cornwallis was exceedingly anxious all the time; he knew, if we failed, that we must have decamped and left every thing on the ground, as most of the cattle were dead, and the remainder so debilitated as to be nearly useless.

I have given you this hasty detail as the newspaper in India seldom contains any but the most flattering accounts. The particulars since Bangalore you will find correct enough in the courier. Our situation at Seringapatam was also critical; and, if the Mahrattas had not very unexpectedly joined us with great supplies, the army would have been very much distressed, we could always however have got back to Bangalore. Tippoo now is at the lowest ebb;—no revenues, and little territory not over-run by the Mahrattas, and his troops now obliged to desert him from want. He is said to be an impetuous, self-conceited man, very mistrustful of all around him, and seldom inclined to take advice; cruel to a degree against his enemies, or those who oppose his will, but a mild master to the bulk, *i. e.* the

poor part of the inhabitants. In the pettah, or town of Bangalore, it is said, there were 12,000 weaving families, and we found great quantities of cotton;——he had introduced the manufacture of silk;——his southern countries, where soil and water would admit of great cultivation, are every where full of inhabitants, and every where cultivated. Mysore proper is rather a poor country; but a great deal had even been done there since the time of General Smith, so that three immense Indian armies have every where found water, and hitherto provisions, which was not before thought poſsible. We have frequent reports of peace, but the Mahrattas are too inveterate against Tippoo, for his treatment of the brahmins, to be satisfied with leſs than his extirpation. If every thing is amicably settled, it is likely that India will enjoy peace for a long time; but Lord C. has a difficult card to play with his allies, they are a very powerful, enterprising people, and the Mahrattas, though they cannot fight us, may harraſs and ruin our countries by their multitudes of horse."

While the military gentlemen in India, are thus contriving destruction to a great many unhappy wretches, who have no knowledge of them nor their concerns, one gentleman in India, Dr James Anderson physician, at Madras, is exerting himself to the utmost of his power to provide some remedy for these evils; not by trying only to heal the wounded, in the way of his profeſsion; but by devising means for procuring a subsistence for the people after the devastations of war ſhall cease. He has kindled a generous ardour in pursuit of useful knowledge, and a general desire to provide employment for the people in peace, throughout the whole peninsula of India, the effects of which will be felt, long after he ſhall for ever cease from his labours*! The rearing of cochineal, of indigo, of silk, of vines, and spiceries, not yet known there, are the objects of his succeſsful pursuits; an account of which we ſhall take an early opportunity to lay before our readers. May the time soon arrive. when the sword ſhall be beat into a ploughſhare, and the spear into a pruning hook; when the wolf ſhall lie down with the lamb, and the child ſhall lay its hand on the cockatrice den; when every

* Mr S. Towns writes thus from Vizagapatnam, 19th May 1791: Certain I am that this country is not cultivated to one half of its value, where it is in best order; and it is an obvious and deplorable truth, that upwards of 5000 inhabitants have died this year from the want of employment, and that several villages are destitute of people which used to be fully inhabited.

man ſhall sit under the ſhade of his own fig-tree, and eat the fruit of his own vine; and when no man, armed with the terrors of power, ſhall dare to pluck the morsel out of their mouth.

France.

The eyes of all Europe are still directed towards France; and every day brings forth new events, the probable iſsue of which no human sagacity can foresee. A few weeks ago appearances were strong that war would have been carried into the heart of Germany, by the military ardour of the French troops. Fortunately for the cause of humanity, the rulers of that extensive empire have yielded to the storm, by discountenancing the emigrant princes. In this prudent caution every friend to humanity will rejoice: Long may such salutary counsels prevail! Still however new rumours of the hostile intentions of foreign princes are kept up in France, though it does not clearly appear that there is any just foundations for these reports.

In regard to their internal situation, a great, and almost unperceived revolution, has gradually taken place of late. The king, now evidently under the influence of some person of great judgement, has acted with a steady mildneſs, and with a judicious attention to the preservation of order and decorum in government, and has so properly interposed his influence to allay the heats of a popular aſsembly, as yet but novices in the art of legislation, as has tended greatly to preserve good order in the state, and to check some raſh enterprises that otherwise would have been too hastily entered upon by the nation. By this means the preponderance of the royal authority has been much augmented in the national aſsembly, and among the people; may it never be carried too far!

Distraction still prevails in St Domingo to an astoniſhing degree; and there seems to be no reason to hope that their animosities will cease but with the extirpation of one of the parties. The whites appear to be the weakest. Troops are now preparing to be sent from France thither. These, it is probable, will join with the people of colour, whose cause is the popular cause of the day. In that case the contest will be soon ended. The white men will be driven away; but how they will afterwards settle with the mother country, time only can bring to light.

Popular commotion at Madrid.

A great commercial house at Bourdeaux has received a letter from a correspondent at Madrid, dated January 26. stating that the inhabitants of the capital of Spain are in a great ferment, and the court in the utmost consternation.

The occasion is stated to have been as follows:

The Corregidor of Madrid had given leave to a bookseller to print an edition of the French constitution, on condition of printing but a very small number of copies. Five or six thousand were, however, printed, which were instantly purchased and carried off.

Count Florida Blanca, the Minister, gave order to seize the printer, the Corregidor, the copies, and the buyers of the work.

This proceeding rouzed the indignant people; and it is also stated, that the minister paid very dear for his arbitrary rafhnefs.

The letter concluded thus—"*Things are going forward here which I dare not trust to paper!*"

Domestic.

The minister, with an allowable exultation, announced to the parliament, the flourifhing state of the nation, and the productivenefs of the revenue which would enable him, he said, to take off some of the taxes that proved most oppreffive to the people. This proposition was received with universal satisfaction by all parties; and if it can have the good effect, to make any one party be fully convinced of one momentous truth, that the universal prosperity of the people, is the only true source of an abundant revenue, it will be a blefsed effect indeed; for then we fhould see, not a few, but many taxes repealed, and the revenue by that means augmented.

Of another truth, it ought also to convince us, *viz.* That to lose a burthen, is to make a real acquisition of wealth. By the last war we had the good fortune to lose a great portion of America, and Minorca. These were two grievous loads which weighed us down, and not only consumed unprofitably great sums of the national treasure but, by retarding our internal prosperity, diminifhed all the sources of revenue, and of course loaded the nation with a number of ruinous and unproductive axes. We begin to feel the effects of this alleviation of our expatriotic territorial pofsefsions; pity, that so small an alleviation had been produced, and that such a struggle fhould have been mantained before we could attain it. When fhall the time come, when the people of this island fhall be convinced, that we fhould not only never make war for the acquisition of trans-maritime territory; nor fight with any nation to retain it; but that our interest would be greatly promoted by giving them all up voluntarily to the freedom of their own wills? The only answer this query that can now obtain, is, that this period is not

yet arrived; that it will arrive in time is scarcely to be doubted; and at that period, the minister of the day may boast of the ample revenues that his administration has obtained.

Miscellaneous articles.

On Monday evening Jan. 30. Mr Sutherland, son of the late Capt. Sutherland, who ſhot himself last year as his Majesty was paſsing through St. James's park to the house of peers, stabbed himself in two places, at his lodgings in Ruſsel-street, Bloomsbury. Dr Hunter was called in to see him, and declared the wounds to be mortal.—A degree of insanity is thought to pervade the male branches of this unfortunate family.

January 31. his Majesty, attended by his usual state, opened the seſsion of Parliament, by a speech from the throne.

The Ducheſs of York was yesterday in the house of peers, while his majesty read his speech.

There were yesterday within the bar of the house of peers, near 150 Ladies of the first distinction.

Feb. 3. The unfortunate Captain S——d is declared by his Surgeons to be out of danger from the desperate wounds he gave himself in a fit of despair, at his lodgings in Great Ruſsel-street.

By accounts received with the Swallow, we are happy to inform the friends of the parties, that Mr Drake a midſhipman, and three seamen belonging to the Hannibal, a seaman belonging to the Fortitude, and one belonging to the Chaser, all of whom were taken last war, have escaped from Chitteldroog to a Mahratta fort, and were expected daily to join the Bombay detachment.

During the last year 109 Hull ſhips cleared out at Peterſburgh.

In the year 1791 there entered at the port of Liverpool, 4035 veſsels, which paid dock duties to the amount of L. 11,645 6 s. 6 d. An increase in the last ten years of upwards of L. 7000.

The Morgan Rattler, smuggling veſsel, that frequents the Iriſh channel, and so barbarously and piratically treated one of the Excise cutters on that station, is now at Dunkirk, her captain not being able to prevail upon the crew to put to sea in her, for fear of the outlawry that now hangs over them. She is the fastest sailing lugger in the world, and mounts 32 six pounders.

Feb. 14. The hop planters are to have a meeting this week, in order to resist the increased demand of tithes which has been set up in some parts of the country. A difference between the impropriator of tithes, and the hop planters of the pariſh of Farnham, in Surrey, is to be the ostensible cause of this meeting; 20 s. *per* acre has hitherto been paid at that place

for the tithe on hops, and a demand is now made of no lefs a sum than L. 3 : 12 : 6 *per* acre.

Tuesday, Feb. 7. exhibited an extraordinary scene on Change. Several merchants of eminence were *arrested* at the suit of government for money due on Custom-house bonds; on account, as we understand, of some disputed duties. One of the fheriffs attended in his carriage to witnefs the execution of the writs.

A beautiful monument is just completed intended to be erected in Chichester cathedral, to the memory of Collins the poet; it consists of a striking bust to the memory of that elegant writer, with a simple inscription, and underneath appear the Pafsions in bafs relief, most exprefsively copied from the inspiration of his own pen.

A few nights ago, four old houses in Virginia-street, Ratcliffe-highway, fell down. Fortunately the wall made a crafh, the noise of which awoke the inhabitants, who had been in bed some hours.

Forty thousand a-year *additional income* is talked of for a certain young Gentleman. It is to be wifhed that some person might be appointed to controul the application, and that, as the revenue will then be princely indeed, the expenditure may be in a manner, and on matters worthy a prince.

A singular mistake.—J. Watson, esq; of Mansfield, in Nottinghamfhire, one of the gentlemen named as a fheriff for that county, has been dead these three years past!

By the last accounts from St Domingo, it appears that the disorders there have not yet subsided.

The earl of Glasgow lately ordered 400 hutches of coals to the poor of Paisley.

M. Talleyrand de Perigord spent one of his first days in this country thus actively:—In the morning he had an audience of Mr Pitt; after which he dined with the Duke of Leeds; and then called separately upon Mr Fox and Mr Burke.

One purpose of M. Talleyrand's mifsion to his country, is said in Paris to relate to the sale of the forests in France, to a body of Englifh merchants who have offered to purchase them.

A Mr Wilson, said to be upon the half-pay of the Englifh Navy, has just presented to the National Afsembly of France, a mufket, which may be discharged seven times in succefsion upon one loading.

It is rumoured that the minister has in his pofsefsion some letters (written by a leading member of opposition) during the late negociation with Rufsia, which are said to be of a very exceptionable if not treasonable nature—but like many other rumours of late, this is probably without foundation; or at least exaggerated.

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A paragraph omitted in the debate on the CORN BILL, *p.* 335.

N.B. Some other debates of little importance took place respecting this bill, which finally passed in the House of Peers, on the 8th of June.

END OF VOLUME SEVENTH.

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